

2025

★ BACK TO ★ SCHOOL GUIDE

**FAMILY DEVOTIONAL:
STARTING STRONG**

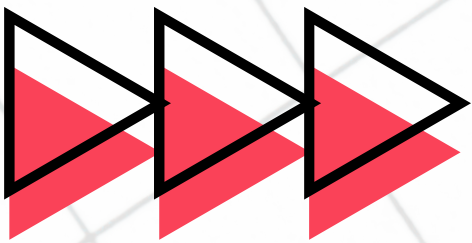
**FAMILY PRAYER &
CONVERSATION STARTERS**

**TEACHING KIDS TO
EMBRACE FAILURE & GROW**





CHECK OUT WHAT'S INSIDE THE GUIDE

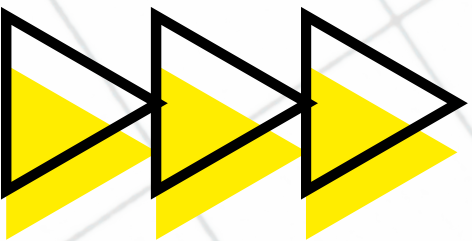


MORE THAN GRADES

Teaching Kids to Embrace Failure and Grow
article for parents

STARTING STRONG

Confidence Rooted in God
devotional study for families



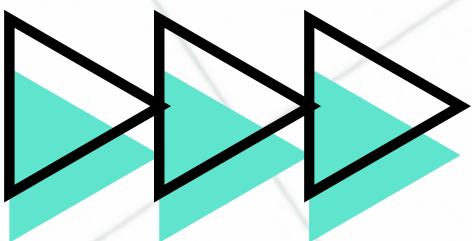
BACK TO SCHOOL CONVOS

**Table Conversation Starters &
After School Questions**

BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSINGS

EPHESIANS 3:14-21

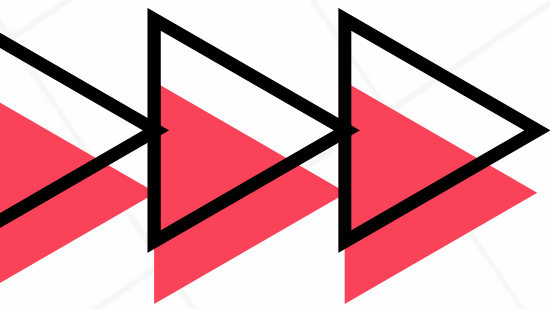
prayer for families



GOAL SETTING

Connection with God and Others
an activity for families





MORE THAN GRADES: TEACHING KIDS TO EMBRACE FAILURE AND GROW

The back-to-school season is here, bringing with it a host of challenges for both students and parents—new routines, shifting social dynamics, and the pressure of academic expectations create both excitement and stress. Even when the world feels overwhelming, one of the most lasting lessons we can offer as parents is the courage to fail—and the comfort of knowing they're not alone in it.

Helping our kids navigate failure builds resilience, fosters a deeper reliance on God, and shapes character for both kids and parents through grace.

Here are five practical, faith-filled reminders to support children as they face setbacks this school season:

1. Failure is inevitable. Even with clear rules and good intentions, your child will forget their homework, mess up on a test, or have a hard day at recess. That's okay. Acknowledging this ahead of

time helps us—and our kids—respond with grace rather than panic. Remember, your response to failure will shape the way your family responds. Be sure to acknowledge that failure is disappointing but it is also a normal part of learning and growing. We all fail!

2. Failure is an opportunity. In a culture that often equates failure with shame, we can help re-frame it as a tool for growth. Every poor grade, rough day at recess, or misstep in class is a moment God can use to shape our children's hearts and character. This mindset helps our kids face failure not with fear, but with confidence, curiosity, and courage.

- **Teach kids to get curious:** What led to this failure? What is God trying to teach you through it? What could you do differently next time?

3. Let them fail. This one is hard. Especially in the school setting, it's tempting to step in—to deliver the

forgotten lunch, email the teacher, or finish the project ourselves. But rescuing our kids every time short-circuits the learning process. It's better to stumble at age 9 than crash and burn at 19.

- Let natural consequences speak. If they forget their gym shoes or miss a quiz, it's okay to let them.
- These smaller “failures” under your loving guidance are building blocks for future independence and resilience.

4. Love well when they fail. This is the heart of gospel-centered parenting. When your child messes up at school or feels embarrassed by a poor performance, your reaction teaches them more than any lecture. Don't withdraw emotionally. Stay calm and engaged. Sometimes, your presence is the only thing they need. If your child only feels celebrated when they succeed, they may start to believe they're only lovable when they're winning.

5. Share your failures. Don't underestimate the power of your own stories from your childhood or even current situations you are facing. Share a story about a test you failed, a time you got in trouble, or when you felt rejected.

Keep it age-appropriate, but honest. This humanizes you and reminds your kids that even adults fall short—and that God is still faithful.

We're not raising perfect students—we're raising resilient, faith-rooted kids who can face failure with grace. As this school year kicks off, let's focus less on performance and more on growth, character, and Gospel-shaped parenting.

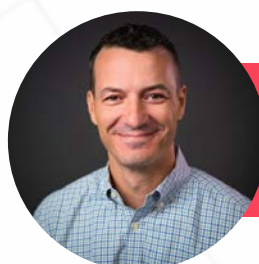
Let's raise kids who know that their worth isn't found in perfection—but in a God who meets them in every failure and walks them toward something greater.

Process it:

When is the last time you allowed your child to fail?

Can you think of a time when you should have allowed your child to learn a “failure lesson?”

How do you respond when your child fails? In what ways can you re-frame failure in order to help your child grow?

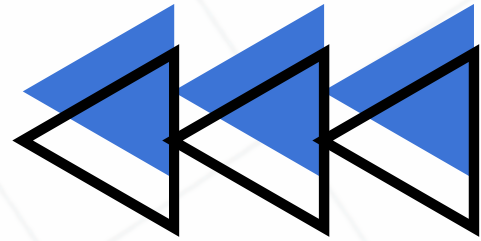


Joe Landi

Empowered Homes
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STARTING STRONG: CONFIDENCE ROOTED IN GOD

a 3 day devotional to encourage students
& families headed back to school



1

Read the Verse

Read:
Jeremiah 17:7-8

7 The person who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence indeed is the Lord, is blessed. 8 He will be like a tree planted by water: it sends its roots out toward a stream, it doesn't fear when heat comes, and its foliage remains green. It will not worry in a year of drought or cease producing fruit. (CSB)

2

Respond

Be still and quiet for
3-5 minutes to reflect
on the questions.

(It's okay if kids can't
be still that long)

What part of Jeremiah 17:7-8 stood
out to you the most?

What does this passage say about
God?

3

Discuss

Take turns
answering the
questions.

When do you feel most confident?
Is there a time when your fear made you
feel less confident?

Where can we "plant ourselves" to
develop deep roots of confidence in
God?

4

Pray

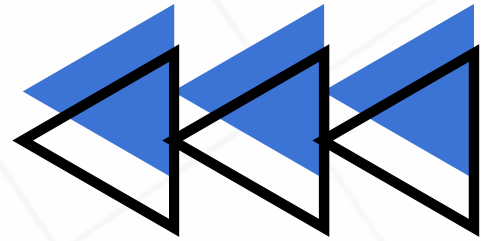
Pray for your children.

God, give us the faith to trust that our
confidence is deeply rooted in you.
Help us to be planted in your truth so
we can overcome fear and produce
beautiful fruit that can be seen by
everyone we encounter.

DAY 1

STARTING STRONG: CONFIDENCE ROOTED IN GOD

a 3 day devotional to encourage students
& families headed back to school



1

Read the Verse

Read:
Colossians 2:6-7

6 So then, just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to walk in him, 7 being rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, and overflowing with gratitude. (CSB)

2

Respond

Be still and quiet for
3-5 minutes to reflect
on the questions.

(It's okay if kids can't
be still that long)

What part of Colossians 2:6-7
stood out to you the most?

What does this passage say
about God?

3

Discuss

Take turns
answering the
questions.

How have you been taught to be
rooted and built up in Jesus?

What challenges do you face at
school that make it difficult to be
rooted in God?

4

Pray

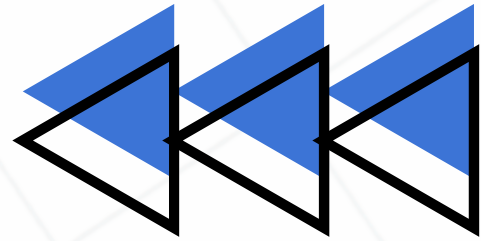
Pray for your children's teachers.

God, prepare the staff and teachers to
lead and love their students well. Give
them wisdom and patience each day.

DAY 2

STARTING STRONG: CONFIDENCE ROOTED IN GOD

a 3 day devotional to encourage students
& families headed back to school



1

Read the Verse

Read:
Psalm 37:23-24

23 A person's steps are established by the Lord, and he takes pleasure in his way. 24 Though he falls, he will not be overwhelmed, because the Lord supports him with his hand. (CSB)

2

Respond

Be still and quiet for
3-5 minutes to reflect
on the questions.

(It's okay if kids can't
be still that long)

What part of Psalm 37:23-24
stood out to you the most?

What does this passage say
about God?

3

Discuss

Take turns
answering the
questions.

Have you ever felt overwhelmed by
failure - share about it.

How can you allow God to support
you after you fail or make a mistake?

How can we help one another after a
mistake or failure?

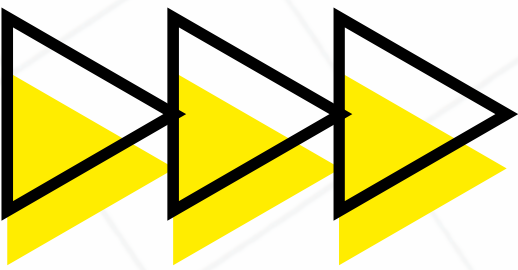
4

Pray

Pray over your children's friendships.

God, give _____ good friends who
are rooted and firmly established in
your love.

DAY 3



BACK TO SCHOOL CONVOS: TABLE CONVERSATION STARTERS

Ask one or two questions at each mealtime
to spark healthy conversation &
connection with your family.

If you could add
any rule to your
classroom or school
what rule would
you make?

If you could drive
to school in your
dream vehicle,
which vehicle
would take?

What makes a
person smart? Is
there a difference
between being
smart and having
wisdom?

Would you rather
skip school for a
day and go to the
zoo or go to an
arcade?

Share one thing
your teacher(s)
said that surprised
you.

What was the most
difficult part of
your day today?

Who makes you
laugh at school?
What is the
funniest thing
they did or said?

Share about one
act of kindness
you saw today.

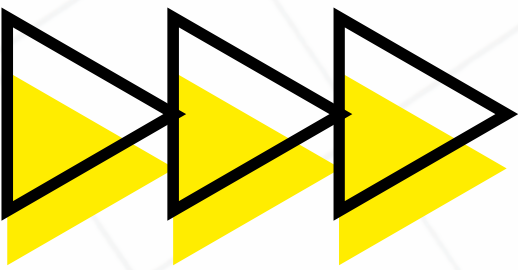
What did you look
forward to most
at the end of the
day?

Was there
anything that
happened today
that you have
questions about?

Name someone
that is difficult to
get along with.
How can you show
them God's love?

If you could go to
school dressed as
your favorite TV
or movie
character, who
would you go as?





AFTER SCHOOL CONVERSATIONS

Tips to Spark Connection Between Parents and Kids

For parents whose children attend school outside the home, being apart for 3 to 10 hours a day can leave you bursting with questions. Unfortunately, those questions are often met with short replies like “fine,” “good,” “yes,” or “no.” Frustrating, right?

Keep in mind—not all questions spark conversation equally. Steer clear of the ones that invite one-word answers, and instead try asking questions that open the door to deeper connection. Check out the suggestions below:

INSTEAD OF OPEN ENDED QUESTIONS...

How was school?
Did you have fun at school?
Who did you sit with?
Do you like the kids in your class?
Was your teacher nice?
Did you play with anyone at recess?
How was lunch?



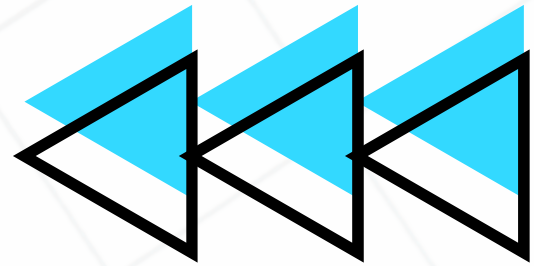
TRY USING ENGAGING QUESTIONS:

Who did you enjoy talking with the most?
Are the kids who sit near you quiet or outgoing?
What was the most interesting thing someone said?
How does your teacher show care for you?
What was something challenging your teacher said?
What were most kids doing at recess?
What was the best game at recess?
What did you talk about at recess?
Name something funny or crazy that happened today.
What were the other kids eating for lunch?



BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING:

PRAY FOR YOUR FAMILY USING
EPHESIANS 3:14-21

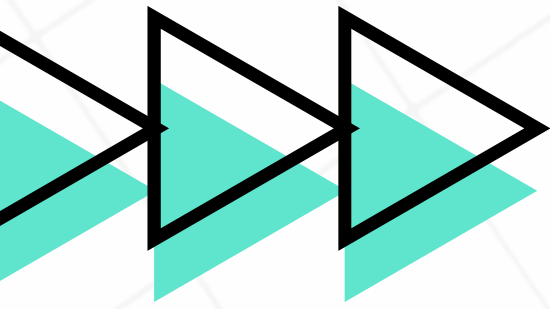


For this reason I kneel before the Father from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. I pray that he may grant _____ (insert child's name), according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with power in your inner being through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. I pray that _____ (child's name) being rooted and firmly established in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the length and width, height and depth of God's love, and to know Christ's love that surpasses knowledge, so that _____ (child's name) may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us — to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

EPHESIANS 3:14-21





GOAL SETTING

GROWING IN CONNECTION WITH GOD AND OTHERS

Are you setting goals this Fall? Take time to pause and ask God to guide you as you grow in your connection with Him, family, other Christians, and those who need know the love of Jesus.



MY GOALS TO HELP ME CONNECT WITH GOD.



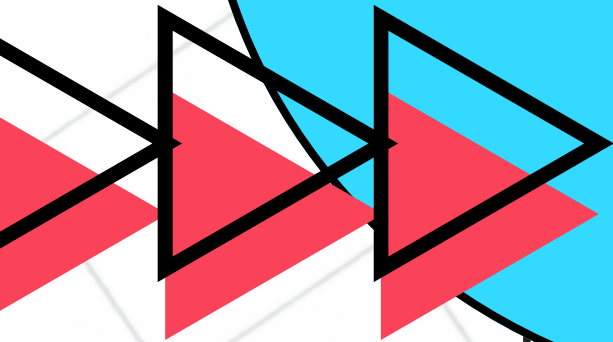
MY GOALS TO HELP ME CONNECT WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS.



MY GOALS TO HELP ME CONNECT WITH MY FAMILY.



MY GOALS TO HELP ME CONNECT WITH PEOPLE WHO NEED THE LOVE OF JESUS.



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